

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the following remarks and the above amendments. This response is believed to fully address all issues raised in the Office Action mailed April 19, 2007. Furthermore, no new matter is believed to have been introduced hereby.

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-13, 15-17, 19, and 21-26 were previously pending. Claims 1, 12, and 19 have been amended as detailed above. Claims 28-33 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-13, 15-17, 19, 21-26, and 28-33 remain pending.

35 USC §§102 and 103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-13, and 15-17 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Jackson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,452,809).

Claims 19 and 21-26 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jackson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,452,809) in view of Gallagher et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,971,804).

Each of these rejections is respectfully traversed.

Without limiting the scope of embodiments of the invention, only in an effort to impart precision to the claims (e.g., by more particularly pointing out embodiments of the invention, rather than to avoid prior art), and merely to expedite the prosecution of the present application, Applicant has amended all pending independent claims as detailed above to indicate that the blade interfaces are in electrical communication with each other and the system management bus.

As the cited art, alone or in combination, clearly fail to teach this further distinguishing element of the independent claims, it is respectfully submitted that all pending independent claims are now in condition for allowance. Support for the amendments to the independent claims may be found by reference to the specification (see, e.g., last paragraph of page 4 of the specification).

For example, in rejecting the first element of claim 1, the Office solely states that:

a midplane having a system management bus and a plurality of blade interfaces
(column 4, lines 48-53, column 11, lines 58-60), the blade interfaces in electrical
communication with each other;

Initially, the undersigned is unable to understand how the cited portions of Jackson anticipate the claimed “system management bus.” The Office does not provide any additional support for this rejection and the undersigned is unable to find any such support in these portions of Jackson that teaches (or even suggests) the claimed combination of features, including the “system management bus.” If a subsequent Office Action is to be mailed in the present application, applicant hereby respectfully requests a more clear rejection of the claimed “system management bus” based on Jackson, pursuant to MPEP §§706 and 706.02(j).

Furthermore, as the Office relies on the above-identified cited portions to anticipate the claimed “system management bus,” it is respectfully submitted that the amendment to claim 1 that indicates that the blade interfaces are not only in electrical communication with each other but also with the system management bus clearly distinguishes the cited art. Similar arguments apply to the remaining independent claims. Hence, all pending independent claims are in condition for allowance.

Also, all pending dependent claims should be allowable for at least similar reasons as their respective independent claims, as well as additional or alternative elements that are recited therein but not shown in the cited prior art.

New claims 28-33 recite further elements that are not taught (or suggested) by the cited art. Hence these claims should be allowable for this additional reason, as well as by virtue of their dependency from allowable independent claims. Support for the new claims may be found by reference to the specification (see, e.g., last paragraph on page 9 of the specification).

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (720-840-6740) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-4238.

Respectfully submitted,

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